

21 Jun 77

2 March 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

THROUGH : Chief, Information Systems Analysis Staff

FROM :

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SUBJECT : ISAS Views on an Agency Classification Program

While the terms "classification" and "declassification" are very similar in appearance, their actual meaning or function is entirely opposite. With this thought in mind, ISAS takes the position that the classification responsibility for the Agency should be retained by the unit that presently has it. There are several sound reasons for this opinion:

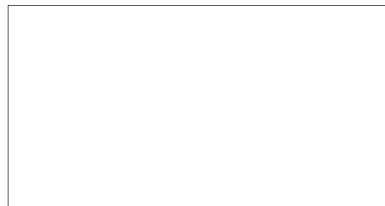
1. ISAS is currently trying to initiate a rather large and complex 30-Year Declassification Program which is severely taxing the staff's personnel and resources. Any new function undertaken at this time, such as a classification program, could not be given the time and attention that it deserves.

2. ISAS has no real background or available knowledge to assume the Agency's classification project without starting from scratch. Therefore, rather than disrupt the present program, ISAS believes that the current unit should retain the function.

3. Since DDA has already split the declassification function within the Agency between IPS (FOIA) and ISAS (30-Year Declassification), (and thereby nullifying the IG's recommendation), ISAS believes that if there is a desire by Agency management to have a combined classification/declassification program, this would be best served under IPS. This is a logical conclusion since IPS deals with current declassification matters and is thus more in tune with classification problems than would be the 30-Year Declassification group.

In short, ISAS strongly believes that due to its present tasks and resources, it could not give the Agency the kind of classification program that it needs and deserves.

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WHAT A SECRETARY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Topic: National Security Classification System

Purpose: To impart a basic understanding of what it is and how it is used

Audience: Secretaries to officers with classification authority

Time:

Q&A time:

I. Background & Basic Principles of the System

A. Why the need for classification?

1. Rights of citizens for government information
2. Responsibilities of a government to protect its secrets
3. DCI responsibility for sources & methods protection (CIA Act of 1949 states "...")
4. Purpose and background of Executive Order 11652

B. What is national security classification?

1. Definition
2. Classification categories and their meaning
3. Explain differences between control markings, classification and dissemination controls to limit access (codewords)

C. Who may classify information?

1. Top Secret authority and delegation of authority.
2. Secret and Confidential authority and delegations of authority
3. Guiding principles for classifiers
 - (a) concept of challenging classification decisions
 - (b) concept of personal responsibility of classifiers
 - (c) concept of conscious decisionmaking

D. How long does document classification last?

1. General Declassification Schedule
 - (a) definition and explanation
 - (b) time restrictions of the General Schedule
 - (c) review of examples (DDI publications)
2. Exemptions to the General Schedule
 - (a) explanation of four exemptions
 - (b) time restrictions
 - (1) requirement for mandatory review
 - (2) requirement for 30-year review
 - (c) review of examples (S&M information)

II. Procedures for Classifying

A. What is the general guidance?

1. Information relating to cover installations and employees under cover.
2. Information relating to foreign intelligence
3. Information relating to S&T projects

B. Where are markings placed?

1. Individual pages, bound publications
2. Transmittal documents
3. Other media (film, magnetic tapes, etc.)

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WHAT OFFICERS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE SYSTEM

Topic: National Security Classification System

Purpose: To impart a basic understanding of what it is and how it is used

Audience: Officers with classification authority or those interested in classification mgmt.

Time:

Q&A time:

I. Background & Basic Principles of the System

A. Why the need for classification?

1. Rights of citizens for government information
2. Responsibilities of a government to protect its secrets
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- 2 -

III. Procedures for Declassification

- A. Who may declassify documents?
- B. When does declassification occur?
 - 1. In response to a Freedom of Information or Privacy Act Request
 - 2. In response to a Congressional inquiry
 - 3. In response to an Executive Order 11652 mandatory review request
 - 4. In the 30 Year Review process
- C. How can I tell if a document has been downgraded or declassified?
- D. What markings are made on declassified documents so that I will know they have been changed?

IV. Key Issues in Classification Management (Guided Discussion)

- A. Is the requirement for a "systematic review" practical?
- B. Can sources & methods be 'scheduled' for declassification at a determined date?
- C. Is paragraph marking a useful solution to the derivative classification problem? Would it help the analyst? Would it hinder an originator?

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